

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 20, No. 5

May 1952

Whole Number 236

HENTY HINT #6

By W. B. Poage

I thought for another Henty Hint I would outline his little story, "On the Spanish Main."

This story is not too well known and I expect that a great number of collectors do not have it.

As far as I know this story was published in Young England Magazine of 1897, W. & R. Chambers Annual Dash & Daring and Chambers published in a little limp cloth booklet known as Chambers Continuos Readers.

One might call this story one of Henty's miniature books as it has all the foundation and setting of many of his full length tales.

The story opens with the hero, a young English boy, left an orphan and who is apprenticed to the village boot-maker.

Of course he is an upright and honest lad but bootmaking is not to his liking as he would rather wander on the Moor watching the animals, birds and fishes and gathering wild plants. Ever so often he slips off and spends the day like this and well knowing that he will receive a good flogging upon his return.

His Master losing patience with him has warned him that if repeated he will have him publicly flogged and placed in the stocks. The temptation is too great though and once again he stays out and rather than face the disgrace he runs away and sees an old friend a sailor just returned from the Spanish Main and asks him to please get him on some vessel as cabin boy.

His sailor friend is able to do this knowing the captain of a vessel about to sail. They leave England and have the usual voyage out with good winds and many calms but no storms.

Reaching the West Indies they have traded most of their goods and are now ready to be on the lookout for one of the treasure ships making her way home to Spain.

Before their plans are carried out they ride out one of those terrible hurricanes of that section and here Henty describes one very well. Coming thru this with slight damage they now plan for their main work and that is the capture of one of the Don's ships or better yet perhaps the capture of one of the Spanish towns in Cuba. They sail for Cuba and reconnoitre one town with a fort and to their joy discover that two Spanish ships are in the harbor. So plans are made either to attack the ships then the town or perhaps the town and fort first. The Captain landing the Mate, our Hero, and one sailor they soon discover that the town must have received warning of their arrival as they were on the alert. The Mate returns to the vessel and it is decided to attack the ships and try and take them by surprise. Our hero and the sailor are left ashore to try and obtain any new knowledge or information possible.

The Spanish had been warned of the attack and so instead of capturing the ships the English vessel is so badly damaged that it is lost and more than half the crew killed. Only the Captain and twenty-two of the crew remain alive and they being captured are confined in the Guard house just outside the fort. Our hero and the sailor see what has happened and it was a question with them to save themselves by taking to the woods and joining some village of natives. Our hero is the true Henty hero, and he is unwilling to do this without an effort to rescue his captain and fellow crewmen.

He ascertains that they are guarded by soldiers, one who remains outside the door and the others stay within the guardhouse, except each evening after their meal they all remain on the outside for a short while to smoke, talk and obtain fresh air before going inside to play cards or to sleep.

He learns that they hang their wine skin across a window to keep cool, so having contacted one of the natives he obtains his consent to have his young son climb up to the window while the soldiers are on the outside and drop some sleeping herbs in the wine.

Watching for two hours they discover that all seem to have fallen asleep so the small boy climbs up again to the window and the bars being some eight inches apart it is no trouble for him to slip through. This he does and obtains the key to the door and opens the guard house. They had been afraid that the guard outside might have to be killed but no, they found him asleep also. The hardest work is over and they all slip down to the water front and taking one of the Spanish boats they row to the nearest vessel and finding the watch thinking they are only some of their own men returning they make an easy capture. They cut the cable and start moving out of the harbor but the fort becoming alarmed send several shots but they escape without injury.

Now that their men are reduced to less than half and too few to attempt any further adventure they decide to head for home and England.

The ship they have captured turns out to be one of the treasure ships loaded and ready to sail for Spain so they obtain a great treasure in spite of their hard luck.

Our hero with his share of the treasure sets himself up in business and of course his big sailor friend, his companion in his adventures, joins him at home and they have a happy life from then on and the one trip to the Spanish Main was enough for them.

The Age of Indiscretion, on page 162 of The Readers Digest, August 1950. Up From Nick Carter. Has a couple of columns on novels and so forth.

Andy Hanes, Jr., 35 Krakow St., Garfield, N. J., our ex-printer of the Roundup has a bunch of novels for sale or trade for stamps, such as Jack Wright, Work & Win and others.

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Published Monthly at
821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by
Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Lawrence, Kansas

Price \$2.00 per year

Ad Rates — 6c per word, \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00
and Full Page \$5.00, — 4 times for the price of three.

OLD TIME BOYS BOOKS

Part 6

by J. Edward Leithead

Stratemeyer's wide range of subjects was bound to reach all young readers, no matter what their taste in reading. Take a look at these titles, under the Bonehill and Winfield pseudonyms, the publishers The Mershon Co., Grosset & Dunlap or David McKay: *Neka*, the *Boy Conjurer*, *Tour of the Zero Club*, *The Young Bandmaster*, *Off for Hawaii*, *A Sailor Boy With Dewey*, *When Santiago Fell*, *Boys of the Fort*, *Bob*, the *Photographer*, *Lost in the Land of Ice*, *Mark Dale's Stage Venture*, *The Young Bank Clerk*, *The Young Bridge Tender*; and these titles, under his own name, published by Lee and Shepard, mostly in series: *Last Cruise of the Spitfire*, *Reuben Stone's Discovery*, *True to Himself*, *Richard Dare's Venture*, *Oliver Bright's Search*, *To Alaska for Gold*, *The Young Auctioneer*, *Bound to be an Electrician*, *Short-hand Tom*, the *Reporter*, *Fighting For His Own*, *Joe*, the *Surveyor*, *Larry*, the *Wanderer On to Peking*, *Under the Mikado's Flag*, *At the Fall of Port Arthur*, *With Togo for Japan*, *Between Boer and Briton*, *Two Young Lumbermen*, *Lost on the Orinoco*, *Young Explorers of the Isthmus*, *Young Volcano Explorers*, *Young Explorers of the Amazon*, *Treasure Seekers of the Andes*, *American Boys' Life of William McKinley*, *American Boys' Life of Theodore Roosevelt*.

William O. Stoddard wrote many good boys' books, among them *The Spy of Yorktown*, *The Red Patriot*, *Little Smoke—A Story of the Sioux Indians*, *On the Old Frontier*, or, *The Last Raid of the Iroquois*, *The Fight for the Valley*, *The Boy Lincoln*, *With the Black Prince*, *Crowded Out o' Crofield*, *The Battle of New York*, *A Narrative of the Civil War*, published by D. Appleton & Co. J. B. Lippincott Co. published his *The Lost Gold of the Montezumas*, *A Story of the Alamo*, which ranks with the best, splendidly illustrated by Charles H. Stephens. There were others: *The Talking Leaves*, *Chumley's Post*, *A Story of the Pawnee Trail*, illustrated by Charles H. Stephens, *Jack Morgan*, *A Boy of 1812*, *The Red Mustang*, *A Story of the Mexican Border*.

Everett McNeil was author of several exceptionally fine historical tales for boys, all published by E. P. Dutton & Co. and well illustrated: *In Texas With Davy Crockett*, *A Story of the Texas War of Independence* (first published in 1908, it ran through seven editions), *With Kit Carson in the Rockies*, *A Tale of the Beaver Country* (first published in 1909, seven editions were printed), *Fighting With Fremont*, *A Tale of the Conquest of California*, *Daniel Du Luth*, or, *Adventuring on the Great Lakes*, *The Boy Forty-niners*. Two more good ones, but not about historical characters were *The Hermit of the Culebra Mountains*, or, *The Adventures of Two Schoolboys in the Far West*, and *The Lost Treasure Cave*, or, *Adventures With the Cowboys of Colorado*.

Kirk Munroe, in his *White Conquerors Series* (Scribners) penned another top-notch historical series, *With Crockett and Bowie*, or, *Fighting for the Lone Star Flag*, *Through Swamp and Glade*, *A Tale of the Seminole War*, *At War With Pontiac*, or, *The Totem of the Bear*, *A tale of Redcoat and Redskin*, *The White Conquerors*, *A Tale of Toltec and Aztec* (about the conquest of Mexico by Cortez). I think he also wrote *The Flamingo Feather*, and probably others of which I have no record.

A favorite series of mine in the old days were the stories about Kit Carey, by Lieutenant Lionel Lounsberry—*Cadet Kit Carey*, *Lieutenant Carey's Luck*, *Captain Carey*, or, *Fighting the Indians at Pine Ridge*, *Kit Carey's Protege*. In these tales, besides young Carey, a border boy who rose to be a captain of cavalry on the Western frontier, also appeared *Buffalo Bill* and *Dr. Frank Powell*. Although issued as cloth-bound books by David McKay, I believe they were first serialized in some story-paper, that some or all were reprinted in *New Medal Library* (Street & Smith). They were, in the main, In-

dian fighting stories, with border outlaws included for good measure, and the style of writing certainly resembles that of Col. Prentiss Ingraham, author of so many Buffalo Bill novels. And there were three cowboy stories he could have written: Rob Ranger's Mine, or, The Boy Who Got There, Rob Ranger, the Young Ranchman, or, Going It Alone at Lost River, Rob Ranger's Cowboy Days, or, The Young Ranchman of the Big Horn, which, besides being published as cloth-bound books by McKay, also appeared in *Brave and Bold Weekly* as #207, Bart Benner's Mine, #208, The Young Ranchman, #209, Bart Benner's Cowboy Days. Yet the other books listed as by "Lounsberry" in the McKay publications hardly sound like subjects Ingraham would write about—Out With Commodore Decatur, Randy, the Pilot, Tom Truxton's School Days, Tom Truxton's Ocean Trip, Treasures of the Golden Crater.

Every Tip Top Weekly fan knows that David McKay issued a clothbound edition of certain Merriwell books by Burt L. Standish—Frank Merriwell's School Days, Frank Merriwell's Chums, Frank Merriwell's Foes, Frank Merriwell's Trip West, Frank Merriwell Down South, Frank Merriwell's Bravery, Frank Merriwell's Hunting Tour, Frank Merriwell's Races, Frank Merriwell's Sports Afield, Frank Merriwell at Yale. (Lots more than these were published in the set). McKay also published, under Gilbert Patten's own name, The Boy Boomers, The Boy Cattle King, The Boy from the West, Don Kirk's Mine, Jud and Joe, The Rockspur Nine, The Rockspur Eleven, The Rockspur Rivals. And D. Appleton & Co., in 1905, published at least one book by Patten, The Deadwood Trail, with fine illustrations by Will Crawford. I seem to remember that this story was also printed as a serial in early issues of *Top-Notch Magazine*. I'm not sure.

"A scant half-hundred riders, round-shouldered with fatigue, in faded blue uniforms, the yellow stripes down their trouser legs more than anything else declaring them Uncle Sam's cavalry, were riding along the trail toward the descent into the gulch . . .

"You know this gorge, Cody?" queried Captain Caverly of the handsome scout, who rode a better charger than even his own mount.

"I've been through it once, Cap," was the reply as the speaker removed his military hat and allowed the morning breeze to fan his bronzed forehead.

"His hair hung upon the collar of his hunting-coat. His eyes were keen and unswerving in their glance. He knew the West—even this wilderness—as few white men ever knew it."

The above is an extract from *Buffalo Bill Stories No. 353, Buffalo Bill and the Bronco Buster*, or, The Raid of Wolf Fang, published by Street & Smith, Feb. 15th, 1908, cover picture by the well-known artist, Charles L. Wrenn. The story itself was by W. Bert Foster (whom I knew well, a fuller description of all his writings, magazine stories as well as books, being contained in an article I wrote for Ralph P. Smith's *Happy Hours Magazine*, May-June 1936 issue). I'm chiefly concerned here with a list of his cloth-bound boys' books, but wish to mention that he wrote about 135 of the *Buffalo Bill Stories*, many Nick Carters in the *Weekly* and *New Magnet Library*, some Harrison Keith stories in *New Magnet*, *Diamond Dicks*, *Rough Riders*, *Motor Matts* and *Bowery Boys*. It was for the Penn Publishing Co. that he wrote, under his own name, the following: *With Washington at Valley Forge* (1902), *With Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga* (1903), *The Eve of War* (Civil War), *The Lost Galleon*, *In Alaskan Waters* and some other northern books for boys. The two Revolutionary War stories were both illustrated by F. A. Carter, who later did so many nickel library and fifteen-cent library covers for Street & Smith. Foster also wrote the *Sea to Sea Series* of boys' books for Donohue of Chicago, and at least one book bearing his name appeared under the Grosset & Dunlap imprint, *The Quest of the Silver Swan, A Tale of Ocean Adventure*.

Most dime novel collectors will remember the paperback series of tales

of the American Revolution brought out by Street & Smith, called the Boys of Liberty Library, and priced at ten cents. There was also at least one volume of a cloth bound series, priced at \$1.00, bearing the same series title and the Street & Smith imprint. This was *Out With Commodore Decatur*, by Lieutenant Lounsberry, already referred to as a McKay publication in the list of books written by Lounsberry. I can't say whether Street & Smith printed any more of the series in a cloth-bound edition, there were 28 to the set in Street & Smith's paperback form, but David McKay published thirty-five different titles that I know of in cloth, and perhaps more, all under the series title *Boys of Liberty Library*, selling for 50 cents. Besides Revolutionary War stories there were tales of the French and Indian War and the War of 1812, altogether a very attractive set, with frontispiece in each, and written by an excellent group of authors. *Marion and His Men*, by John De Morgan, *The Young Ambassador*, or, *Washington's First Triumph*, by John De Morgan, *The Tory Plot*, or *Saving Washington's Life*, by T. C. Harbaugh, *Under Greene's Banner*, by T. C. Harbough, *The Quaker Spy*, by Lieutenant Lounsberry, *Captain of the Minute Men*, by Harrie Irving Hancock, *The Land Hero of 1812*, or, *Campaigning With General Jackson*, by C. C. Hotchkiss, *The Cruise of the Essex*, by Frank Sheridan (De Morgan), "Old Put," the Patriot, by Frederick A. Ober, *Campaigning With Braddock*, by William Murray Graydon. The McKay edition sometimes bore the copyright of Street & Smith, sometimes of Norman L. Munro, so that probably all were originally dime novels or story-paper serials. About 9 of them by De Morgan (counting one under his "Frank Sheridan" pseudonym), one by Lounsberry and one by Harbaugh were reprinted in *Brave and Bold Weekly*.

(to be continued)

RECENT RENEWALS TO THE ROUNDUP

14. John R. Reischmann, R. R. 1, Box 364, Norwood Park Sta., Chicago 31, Ill.
17. Frank J. Frey, 132 E. Wyoming St., Phila., Pa. (new address)
27. Floyd L. Beagle, 936 B. Way, Watervliet, N. Y.
30. P. J. Moran, 619 Santa Ray Ave., Oakland 10, Calif.
35. Delbert Love, Spencer, W. Va.
40. A. W. Edgerton, 116 W. 6th Ave., Houston 7, Texas.
64. Wm. J. Hahn, 3215 E. Mulberry St., Evansville 14, Ind.
81. J. C. Dykes, 4511 Guilford Rd., College Park, Md.
131. John L. Shear, Smiths Basin, N. Y.
149. L. Harding, 261 St. John St., Portland 4, Maine.
156. I. S. Seidman, 505 5th Ave., New York 17, N. Y.
164. Albert Tannenbaum, 434 Charles St., Bridgeport 6, Conn.
167. L. S. Patterson, 643 So. Hill St., Griffin, Ga.
168. C. T. Shelly, R. R. 3, Box 297 E, Muncie, Ind.
172. Thor G. Mauritzen, Room 211, 404 W. 9th St., Los Angeles 15, Calif.
178. Russell S. Bullock, County Road, Essex, Mass.
201. Pete Martin, c/o Sat. Eve. Post, Curtis Pub. Co., Phila., Pa.

FOR SALE

Circus Posters—Cole's Colossal Shows
July 1896.

G. E. Witherell's Great Cosmopolitan
Show, Sept. 1883.

Adam Forepaugh's Great Show, July
1883.

Price \$3 each or all 3 for \$8.50 pp.
Dime Novel Index, covering Nos. 160
to 231, price 25¢, has a dime novel
picture on front cover.

RALPH F. CUMMINGS

"Chatterbox" publications for the
years 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909.

"Motor Boys" series for the year
1908.

"National Geographic"—issues pri-
or to 1914.

Kindly request that answers be for-
warded to

Robert S. Conahay, Jr.
65 N. Fullerton Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

I noticed that a Rounduper named Moran out in Oakland, California, had some Golden Argosies for sale and I sent him an air mail letter hoping he might have one I want. I'd have sent a telegram but there was a telegraph strike. Anyhow it gave me the idea that the Roundup is my best bet to buy the items I need. I don't know what such things are worth, but I won't be a tightwad about them. I'll take a run if I have to, or a bound volume, but prefer the separate issues if they are in good condition. Anyhow, I've been combing the highways and byways for:

The Independent—New York, Nov. 20, 1900.

Dutton's Holiday Annual for 1905

Camps and Quarters—1889—Ward Lock, N. Y. (edited by Archibald Forbes)

The American Boy—March, 1903 through July, 1903.

The Golden Argosy—Sept. 5, 1885—Vol. 3, No. 40 through Oct. 10, 1885—Vol. 3, No. 45—and January 23, 1886—Vol. 4, No. 8.

PETE MARTIN

635 Sussex Road

Wynnewood, Pa.

WANTED

Horror, Terror, Mystery Tales, Sinister, Uncanny Tales, Bizarre, Spicy, Detective and others similar Paris Nights, Gay Paree, Peppy, Snappy, Ginger others similar.

FOR SALE

Beadle's Half Dime Novels, 200 copies. Weird Tales, Astounding, Amazing Hobbies, Railroad, Ellery Queen, Strength and Health, Your Physique, Science-Fiction and Weird Books.

A-1 BOOKSTORES

509 N. State St., Chicago 10, Illinois

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Wallace H. Waldrop seems to have gotten into print for a change, for the "Greenville News," Greenville, S. C. ran a picture of Frank Reade Library #1 and a story of Bro. Waldrop and his collection in the Sunday, March 30th, 1952, issue, and written by Herbert Johnson. Title is "Superman Not So New. Superman, Science-Fiction Were Themes of Dime Novel." Sure is a very interesting article. Also in the same paper, but different dates, two more articles came out, but on the latest 25¢ pocket books, such as, March 9th—"From Greenville Magazine Stands," "Magazines are Lurid Beyond Comparison With Dime Novels of a Past Generation." Nearly a full column article, with pictures of Teen Age Dope Slaves, His Rejected Love, etc., and the other one is Mar. 16th, 1952—"Paper Bound Book Covers Garish," "Cover's Blurbs Often Make Promises that Contents of Books Fail Badly to Fulfill." All by Herbert Johnson. Pictures in this one of The Golden Woman, To Kiss or Kill, Big City Girl, etc.

Albert Johannsen is still looking for some of Irwin P. Beadle's Ten Cent Novels, but they seem to be scarce, and he hasn't been able to fill the missing gaps in his collection. He also says he is looking for Campfire Library #24, The Ranger Captain, or Sporting Life Along the Mexican Border, by Henry L. Boone. He wants to check this novel and see whether it is a plagiarism of Mayne Reid's "Helpless Hand." He is judging by a photo he has of this novel which shows a boy hanging by one arm from a tree, with the other hand tied behind him, and that looks suspiciously like the Reid story. Albert has been working on a supplement to the two Beadle & Adams books, listing all corrections and additions discovered since the books went to the printer. He has quite a list of things. Among others, he is extending the

list of newspaper titles which are pretty well given through 1950, but either there were not many items in 1951 or else my list is rather incomplete, so fellows, if you can help him out any, do the best you can, for I know he would appreciate it.

Haven't been feeling very good for some months, but the Roundup will go on just the same, by me or someone else.

Arvid Dahlstedt says that in the preface in "The Prince of the House of David" by J. H. Ingraham, who also wrote lots of the old novels, denies ever having written any blood and thunder stories. (Editor—guess his memory went back on him?)

Antiquarian Notes by J. V.: "Dime Novels on Early Oil," an illustrated booklet, has been issued in a limited edition by the Stagecoach Press of Sierra Madre. Jack Rittenhouse, currently exiled to Texas, is the author, designer and printer.

F. C. Acker still needs Merriwell Series #75 and 78.

Eli A. Messier wants Merriwell Series #87.

F. F. Johnson of Salt Lake City 4, Utah, has 6 Algernon, cloth bound, to trade for two of his wants, such as "Boys With Old Hickory" and "Tecumseh's Young Brave." These are the War of 1812 series.

WANTED

Old comic supplements, from Sunday newspapers, period 1895 to 1918. Also pre-1912 comic strip books. I have for sale or trade, duplicates, also early copies of Puck, Judge, and Life.

Ernest E. McGee

2837 N. 11th St., Philadelphia 33, Pa.

"SIDE NOTES"

An occasional paper about old books, old printing types, penny dreadfuls, Toy Theatres.

J. A. Birkbeck

51 Marchmont Rd., Edinburgh 9
Scotland

Change of Address to

105. Cmdr. Frank C. Acker, USN, 6625 Lee Highway, Arlington 13, Va.

FOR SALE

P. J. MORAN

619 Santa Ray Ave.

Oakland 10, Calif.

Prices not listed will be furnished on request, all items sent postpaid.

New York Family Story Paper and Fireside Companion, many numbers.

A few volumes of Good News.

Happy Days #57 to 65 86 to 99 (and sewed together) Nos. 272 to 336. Also many loose numbers.

8 copies of Ivers Detective Series and 1 American Series.

16 nos. Old Medal Library and 4 novels by Prof Henry Peck.

A Quiet Youth (Comic Booklet, very rare) by Bricktop. \$3.50.

New Secret Service Series (S & S), #21, paper bound.

Log Cabin Library #161 222 231 268 299 309 349 404 410 414 423

Log Cabin Library (Pocket edition) #50c 52c 62c 66 193 238 (affix "c" means without covers.

Magnet Library (old) #118 245 277 336 350 351 357 476 75¢ each. Also #316 and 448 without covers.

New Magnet Library, about 250 numbers at 50¢ each.

New Secret Service Series (S & S) #14 and 21 at 75¢ each.

Nick Carter Library (Black & White) #10 30 41 43 44 46 61 62 85 87 96 137 227, \$2.50 each.

Nickel Library #21 677 775 at \$2.50 each. Also #202 damaged.

New York Weekly, Vol. 22, in rough binding, also Vols. 33 36 41 42 43 44 45.

New York Weekly Welcome (nearly complete) Vol. 68. Commencing Oct. 5, '12.

New York Ledger, have most of them from year 1865 to 1884.

Nugget Library #111 141 147 150 153 163 164 166 at \$2.00 each, and 10 damaged ones.

Old Sleuth Library #9 10 12 19 21 22 24 26 33 39 48 53 62 64 74 86 at 75¢ ea.

Old Sleuths Own, about 50 numbers assorted.

Old Sleuth Weekly, most of them, at \$1.00 each.

Old Cap Collier Library #239 382 484 711 717 724 728 731 756 759 771 805, \$2.00 each.

Pluck & Luck, about 80 numbers, mostly under No. 500..

Red, White & Blue #7 10 11 13 17 18 20 23 25 28 30 34 43 \$2.00 each.

Saturday Nights. One big book containing Vols. 17, Nos. 13 to Vol. 20, No. 17, Dec. 6th, 1879 to Dec. 30th, 1882. Also about 458 loose from Vol. 9 to Vol. 33, inclusive.

Seaside Library, large black and white editions, about 13 nos. in one bound book ranging from No. 45 to 458, also loose #117.

Secret Service #164 252

True Blue #16 and 34.

Young Broadbrim #57, \$1.50.

About 16 Old Puck and Judges.

Boys of America, nearly a complete run, but badly damaged.